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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the agenda item of the Security Council regarding the implementation of resolution 1054 (1996), I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement containing the views of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

The Sudanese authorities continue to defy the Security Council and to hoodwink the international community

1. When the Security Council takes up once again the issue of Sudanese involvement in State-sponsored terrorism to re-examine whether the Sudan has complied with its requests, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1054 (1996), the Council will discover that the Sudanese authorities have not taken any step to comply with resolutions 1044 (1996) and 1054 (1996).

2. No doubt, the Sudanese authorities have, since the adoption of resolution 1054 (1996), striven to appear to be cooperative and to improve their image, but all this with the aim of diverting the attention of the international community from the crux of the issues they have been called upon to respond to.

3. The Sudanese authorities were caught red-handed in the assassination attempt and the three terrorists in Ethiopia's custody have confirmed this with no ambiguity. The videotaped interviews with the three which have been made available to members of the Security Council by Ethiopia confirm this. By any objective criteria, a review of those interviews must and should lead the Security Council to conclude that the Sudanese authorities were involved in the assassination attempt against the Egyptian President, and sheltered the three terrorists wanted in connection with this terrorist act.

4. Now, the Sudanese authorities claim that they have a witness - "a very reliable witness" - who would prove their innocence. The alleged witness is Mustafa Hamza, who, according to the newspaper Al-Hayat, was interviewed somewhere in Afghanistan. For Ethiopia, this is no more than a joke, and there is no question that the Security Council would view it accordingly.

5. The truth, however, is that Mustafa Hamza, no matter where he has been or not been at a given point in time after the Security Council started to consider this issue, lives in the Sudan, and his wife and his four children are in the Sudan and the man considers the Sudan his present abode. This truth cannot be allowed to be concealed by the ploy that the Sudanese authorities have devised.

6. Based on the evidence and facts brought to it, the Security Council, in its resolutions 1044 (1996) and 1054 (1996), has determined that the Sudan is involved in State-sponsored international terrorism and that it should extradite to Ethiopia the three terrorists being sheltered in its territory for prosecution. The Sudan was not given several choices, but one - to extradite to Ethiopia those wanted in connection with the terrorist act committed in the capital of Ethiopia. The two resolutions of the Security Council have also determined that the Sudan is not a Member State in good standing, for it is involved in acts of State-sponsored international terrorism and destabilization of its neighbours.

7. The Security Council is now facing one major question. Can the Council view the gimmicks and the ploys used by the Sudanese authorities, precisely with a view to evading the demands of the Security Council, as steps taken in earnest

by the Sudanese Government to comply with those same demands? The mildness of Security Council resolution 1054 (1996) might have led the Sudanese authorities to think that it was the first step by the Council to get them off the hook and to convince themselves that their earlier prevarication had been effective. The Security Council now has another opportunity to get the Sudanese authorities to be more serious in complying with its demands. One cannot afford to be so disinclined to take effective measures on a clear matter of grave breach of international law - by a Member State - which constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security.